

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

April 12, 2010

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, April 12, 2010, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Richard Tretheway was not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 22, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on March 22, 2010, as written carried with a vote of 4-0.

Reports

Sean McGarry requested that the School Committee write letters to Block Island's legislators voicing concern about a section included in the governor's proposed supplemental budget requiring all town councils to approve collective bargaining agreements with school personnel. A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to send letters to Rep.

Donna Walsh and Sen. Susan Sosnowski regarding the committee's opposition to town councils being required to approve collective bargaining agreements with school personnel carried with a vote of 4-0. It was also suggested that individual members of the committee call the representatives to express their personal opinions.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo regarding how RIDE calculates the accountability for No Child Left Behind, using NECAP results and other measures (attendance and graduation rate) to determine whether each school/district achieves the required levels. Objectives are set for English/language arts, math, attendance and graduate rates, and test participation. Districts must meet annual yearly progress or consequences are imposed. Mr. Hicks noted that our indexes for math and English/language arts indicate growth and congratulated our students.

The fiscal report through March 31, 2010, was submitted for review. Mrs. Martin made a few revisions to the projected revenues and expenditures, but the fund balance is still in good shape. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the fiscal report through March 31, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Old Business

Policy GK: Respectful and Peaceful School Community was updated after it was reviewed by Attorney Myers. Mr. Hicks highlighted the changes and it was suggested that the policy be reposted because of

the types of changes made to it. A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy GK: Safe and Peaceful School Community for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

The proposed 2010-2011 school calendar was submitted for review along with correspondence requesting that December 23 be part of the Christmas recess. A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to include the extra day before Christmas recess was withdrawn after discussion. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

New Business

Mr. Hicks stated that the school fiscal and accounting responsibilities have been growing and came to a head with the implementation of the Uniform Chart of Accounts. He recommended the creation of a school department finance director position and submitted a job description developed using similar positions throughout the state. This would be an exempt, administrative position and come with a salary of \$47,000. Creating the finance director position would eliminate the fiscal clerk position. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to create a finance director position effective July 1, 2010, and to eliminate the fiscal clerk position carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that he and four others (Annie Hall, Barbara MacMullan, Summer Riker, and Martha Velie-Gass) visited Westerly

on April 6 to explore and discuss the possibility of sharing special education administrative services. Representative from Westerly at this meeting included the superintendent, assistant superintendent, PPS director, secondary psychologist, and PBGR and reading coordinators. The Rhode Island Department of Education has been encouraging the move toward shared services and this would be one way to accomplish it. Making connections to mainland professionals and strengthening the work already being done at Block Island School would be seen as positive outcomes. Westerly administrators have volunteered to come out to share information with a larger audience and discuss some of the financial details. A motion (McGarry, Padien) to bring the discussion of the shared service arrangement to a broader audience, including the entire faculty, to broaden understanding and solicit additional ideas and to continue discussions with Westerly to develop a concrete proposal for review that would address the concerns that have arisen to date and may arise in further discussions as well as details of the arrangement including financial arrangements carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. McGarry requested that the elevator not be used by staff members and students unless absolutely necessary because of the energy costs associated with its use. A sign will be posted requesting that people use the stairs if they are able.

A request was received from Lisa Nolan Boudreau requesting permission to home school her son, Jacques, while on an extended

family vacation from April 28 through May 6, 2010. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve Lisa Nolan Boudreau's request to home school her son from April 28-May 6, 2010, carried with a vote of 4-0.

A request was received from Augusta Grullon requesting permission to home school her daughter, Stephanie, while on an extended family vacation in Brazil from April 13-29, 2010. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve Augusta Grullon's request to home school her daughter from April 13-29, 2010, carried with a vote of 4-0.

It has come to the administration's attention that contributions to the state retirement system have been classified as post tax as opposed to pre tax, which they are. The difference is that for a post tax retirement contribution income taxes are paid on the contribution, and for pre tax the contribution is made before taxes are calculated. This impacts the status of the pension paid on the contributed funds to assure the money is not taxed twice. We are working with the retirement board to correct the status of the contributions, and it was requested that the School Committee adopt a resolution to facilitate the process. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to adopt the resolution for the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island to update their records to correctly reflect the retirement contributions of the Block Island School employees as pre-tax carried with a vote of 4-0.

Proposals were requested for a rental unit to house administrative personnel for the 2010-2011 school year. John Leone submitted the

only proposal, which is for the house currently being leased, and has offered the house under the same conditions and price as this year. This lease would exclude weekends through Columbus Day and from Memorial Day on. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the proposal submitted by John Leone for the lease of the Sterling House on High Street from September through June at the rate of \$1,400 per month carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Butcher, Hall) to approve the request from Summer Riker for an extended maternity leave from mid-September 2010 through February 28, 2011, carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Kirk Littlefield as the assistant coach for the varsity softball team carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Teyarra Kermen as the assistant coach for the junior high softball team pending receipt of the appropriate certification carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Littlefield requested that his coaching stipend, with the exception of \$1, be donated to the Block Island School Friends and earmarked for athletics. The auditor advised that a separate vote be taken for this purpose. A motion (Padien, Hall) to donate all but \$1 of Kirk Littlefield's coaching stipend to the Block Island School Friends

carried with a vote of 4-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of April and May was submitted for School Committee information. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2010.

Correspondence

Correspondence was forwarded for School Committee information, including a letter from Pam and Stewart Glen regarding the possibility of their granddaughter, who received her GED, to be recognized at some point during this year's graduation ceremony and hand her the certificate. Mr. Hicks explained that according to School Committee policy graduation is for students who have fulfilled all of the requirements of the Block Island School. It was suggested that perhaps an in-house solution to this dilemma could be found and committee members requested that this issue be placed on the May agenda for a final decision.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:18 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:32 p.m. to return to open session carried

with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:33 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: May 17, 2010